

Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons

The Rescuers: Creating the United Nations

"The Rescuers," a 1977 American animated feature produced by Walt Disney Productions, is about the Rescue Aid Society, an international mouse organization headquartered in New York, which "somewhat" resembles the United Nations.

Standard: I. Culture
III. People, Places, and Environments
V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
VI. Power, Authority, and Governance
IX. Global Connections

Grade Level: 9–12

Objectives: The student will:
● Determine the purpose of the United Nations
● Analyze the "moral force of justice"
● Correlated the idea of "R-E-S-C-U-E" with the articles of the UN Charter

Time: 1 class period

Materials: Documents: **1945** *The Charter of the United Nations*
1945 *The Moral Force of Justice*

Resources: *Oh What a Difference a Second World War Can Make!*
Song Lyrics: The Rescue Aid Society

Exercises: *The Rescue Aid Society and a Speech*

Access to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VN1W5iq4724> (clip from movie)
or use the movie and show selected scenes

Procedures:

Activity 1

1. Distribute copies of the resource, *Song Lyrics: The Rescue Aid Society*.
2. Have students follow the lyrics as the You Tube clip is played.
3. What are the purposes of the Rescue Aid Society?
4. Provide students with the document, *The Moral Force of Justice*.
5. Explain to students that this speech was delivered by President Harry S Truman at the opening of the conference to create the United Nations. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had died on April 12, only 10 days

before the gathering of nations. This was a significant speech for Truman. He had to set the proper tone for the United Nations in a time when the world was healing from WWII and the United States, in addition, had just lost a president—the man who had guided the country through depression and war.

6. Present the exercise, *The Rescue Aid Society and a Speech*.

7. Allow students to work in groups of 4-5.

8. Have students select phrases from President Truman's speech that could be additional lyrics in the song, *Rescue Aid Society* OR could be used to create a new song following the melody of *Rescue Aid Society*. Follow the instructions on the exercise.

9. Have a brief song fest. The groups should sing their creations.

10. Discuss Truman's speech. Was it uplifting? Promising? Did students find memorable phrases that fit the mood and tone of the song, *Rescue Aid Society*? Did students use the same phrases or was there a wide selection?

11. Rate President Truman's speech. If you had been in the audience that day, where would you rate it for inspiration using a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the most inspirational. Discuss the reasons for the answers.

Activity 2

1. Keep the students in their assigned groups.

2. Provide background information about the UN conference using the handout, "Oh, What a Difference a Second World War Can Make!"

3. Provide copies of *The Charter of the United Nations* to each group. Students can divide this handout by sections of the Charter. The entire charter can be used with each group **OR** divided, with one section per group following this pattern:

- Articles 1-22
- Articles 23-38
- Articles 39-60
- Articles 61-85
- Articles 86-111

4. Before beginning the group assignment, select a student to read the preamble to the Charter. What promises are included in the preamble?

5. Write the word, "R-E-S-C-U-E," on the board. Since this is the key purpose of the "Rescue Aid Society," it is the task of the students to find evidence of the promise of R-E-S-C-U-E in the Charter of the United Nations.

- 6.** Instruct students to read the Charter and, in the margins, write "R-E-S-C-U-E" whenever an offer of help is made by the UN.
- 7.** The teacher should create column headings on the board for students to record their findings. Use these headings:
 - Articles 1-22
 - Articles 23-38
 - Articles 39-60
 - Articles 61-85
 - Articles 86-111
- 8.** Have 1-2 student(s) per group record their findings on the board. They may shorten sentences and should label each phrase with the corresponding Article number.
- 9.** View and discuss the students' findings.
 - a.** Does the Charter reveal many promises of R-E-S-C-U-E?
 - b.** Study the promises recorded on the board. Sort them into categories: Economic, Political, Humanitarian, Other Support. Discuss the results.
 - c.** How do these R-E-S-C-U-E promises correlate with events of UN involvement in their memories of historical and current events?
- 10.** Determine if the UN Charter reveals additional lyrics for the songs created in Activity 1. ■